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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1962

Medical Officer of Health -
NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector -
W.N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H.,M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st July, 1963.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Madam & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1962.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole. It is satisfactory to note that there was no infantile or stillbirth during the year.

There was no increased incidence in any of the notifiable communicable diseases.

I have taken the opportunity to circularise with this report a table of statistics extracted from the Census Reports of 1951 and 1961 which you may find interesting.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss J. Shirley for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Yours Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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1962

A. Area - 1,078 acres.
Rateable value: 1st April, 1963 - £124,816
Production of a penny rate: 1962/63 - £172 (est)
1963/64 - £482 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) -3,280

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		Comparative Rates (a) Shaftesbury Borough	(b) England & Wales
Total	21	20	Rater per 1,000 resident pop: = 12.5	13.0	18.0
Legitimate	21	19			
Illegitimate	-	1			

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	18.1

DEATHS

Total	16	28	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: =13.7	10.5	11.9

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	21.4
Under 4 weeks	Nil	Nil			
Under 1 week	Nil	Nil			

	1962	1961	1960	1959
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs	2	2	1	2
" " Other Cancer	8	7	8	7
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	5	15	13	10
" " Other Heart or Vascular disease	16	14	18	28
" " Influenza	1	1	1	1
" " Pneumonia	1	1	1	Nil
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	Nil	Nil	1
" " Suicide	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts. Its principal industries and trades include glove making, and the local central depots for the Southern Electricity Board and Post Office Engineers are stationed there. A Government Radio Station is also within its boundaries. A laundry and egg packing station are recent acquisitions in the Borough.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

The Westminster Memorial Hospital of the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board provides local hospital facilities, both in-patient and out-patient.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided by the County Council using the St. John Ambulance Brigade as its agent. An efficient service has been maintained throughout the year.

Laboratory Services

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Opthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made to the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society and the Silver Thread Club.

Prevention of Disease

Prophylactic Inoculations

Preventive inoculation against disease is the responsibility of the County Council through the school medical, child welfare and medical practitioner services.

An immunisation clinic was held regularly at the Shaftesbury Clinic on the second Thursday in the month from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

	1962	1961	1960
Poliomyelitis			
Two treatments (Salk)	5	102	215
Three treatments(Salk or	121	220	243
Four treatments oral)	17	243	
Diphtheria			
Primary treatments	50	49	34
Booster treatments	28	17	53
Whooping Cough			
Primary treatments	36	30	29
Booster treatments	-	-	3
Tetanus			
Primary treatments	72	62	34
Booster treatments	15	7	18
Smallpox			
Primary vaccinations	127	40	21
Re-vaccinations	257	8	9

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - William Norman Teasdale, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Certificate of R.S.H. and P.I.E.J.B. Certificate of R.S.H. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Technical Assistant (Part time) - Philip Stroud

WATER SUPPLY

All properties in the Borough are served by a public water supply with the exception of one property having a satisfactory private supply.

Twenty three properties (forty two persons) are, however, still served by standpipe supplies.

The public supply is provided by the South and West Wilts Water Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between Officers of your Council and those of the Board. Regular sampling of the supply at source, by the Board and, in the course of distribution, by your Officers has been carried out.

There has been a satisfactory supply of water throughout the year both in quantity and quality.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

During the year, the main reconstruction of the sewers in the centre of the town and other parts was commenced and completed. This affected all the properties on the North side of High Street, a considerable number of properties on both sides of Salisbury Street, those at the West end of Bell Street, the majority of Tanyard Lane and Haimes Lane and the whole of Bleke Street, involving not only the construction of new sewers but also the relaying and improvement of drainage of properties and their connection to the new sewer.

This major improvement in the general sewerage of the town has remedied many old and leaking sewers, and has had the effect of increasing the sewage discharge at the sewer outfall points, and may well have doubled the quantity of effluent at the Holyrood Farm outfalls. This has also been increased by the diversion of the whole of the sewage from the Grosvenor Road area from Paynes Place through the town to Holyrood Farm.

This has had the beneficial effect of almost completely remedying the unsatisfactory state of the disposal points at Paynes Place Farm.

The antiquated method of crude irrigation of pasture land with untreated sewage remains at Holyrood Farm with gross pollution of the water course into which it finds its way. It is of some surprise, that this method of sewage disposal has not given rise to more nuisance than has, in fact, been caused.

The Long Cross area shows no improvement and discussions are likely to take place with the Council's Consulting Engineers with a view to reviewing the long standing proposals, and it is hoped that a revised scheme may result in order to bring about an improvement in existing conditions.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There is no improvement in the refuse disposal arrangements. In fact, these are deteriorating due to the increased amount of refuse having to be collected. Refuse collection is now being carried into the third day, particularly as a few premises now have twice weekly collections. The discontinuance of waste paper collection in the town by the Shaftesbury Rural District Council has resulted in more refuse being collected from shops. Even with the unsatisfactory kerbside collection, it is becoming more difficult to complete the collection in the time allotted.

The covering of refuse at the tip has been helped during the past year by the amount of soil available from the excavations of the sewer contract and the increased amount of housing estate development, but it has also had the effect of accelerating the build-up of the mount of refuse at Salisbury Road. This mount has reached such proportions that it should be closed and levelled off and another tipping area found, otherwise the unsightly approach to the town from the East is going to get worse each year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

No action has been taken during the past year. Time alone will show what the implications of the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, will be within the Borough.

SHOPS ACT

The Borough Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of the Shops Act, 1950 within the Borough.

No. of inspections carried out	144
No. of defects found	12
No. of notices served	8
No. of notices complied with	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	2	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	77	3
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	12	16	-
Total	40	97	3

No. of cases in which defects were -	Found	Remedied	Referred by Factory Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	1
Sanitary Conveniences			
Insufficient	1	1	1
Unsuitable or Defective	4	3	1
Total	6	5	3

No. of Outworkers (Wearing apparel) - 76

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was called for or taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough provided by the Council.

The bacterial purity of the water has been exceptionally good, a nil report of B.coli being received on all the five samples taken for examination. The pH value has been well controlled and the new filtering media together with the bath cleansing equipment has maintained a clear water throughout the summer season. Half the bath surrounds were renewed and the remainder will be completed before the start of the 1963 season, but in order to guarantee an adequate change of water daily, it is essential that a pump of larger capacity be installed.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No application was received during the year for a licence under the above Act.

Certain Informal action was taken against certain isolated and indiscrimate siting of caravans which may well have to be followed by more formal action.

Although there appears to be no immediate demand for caravan sites in the Borough, a convenient and well planned site, off A 30 route, would be of particular benefit to tourists on the way to Devon and Cornwall. The provision of such sites will become essential if the present habit of parking overnight on roadside verges with its potential public health hazard is to be prevented.

The Council have indicated that it would encourage any prospective developer in providing a properly planned site in a suitable situation but, apart from a few tentative enquiries, no firm scheme has been forthcoming.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

One case of flea infestation, and a very small number of cluster fly infestations were dealt with during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the above Act are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 (Continued)

Co-operation with Officers of the Committee has been well maintained and their work is much appreciated. The fact that complaints of infestation are so few and far between is an excellent recommendation for the work of prevention which is being carried out. In fact, so effective is the scheme that the results are in danger of being taken for granted.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

The standard of hygiene generally is high both in the school canteens and boarding houses.

It is satisfactory to record that the long awaited improvements at the Grammar School kitchen were carried out during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No action was called for under these Acts during the year in connection with the compulsory removal of an old person who required care and attention, to an Institution or Hospital.

HOUSING

The completion of nine houses in the St. James's Street area permitted the completion of the rehousing of the remaining occupants of old Clearance Areas but, unfortunately, the opportunity was not taken to build to rehouse families from areas now declared Clearance Areas. During the year action was instituted against a further thirteen sub-standard houses, seven of which were included in two Clearance Areas. Of these thirteen, all but one are occupied, and under present circumstances, it is difficult to see when the occupants can be rehoused as no houses are available nor appear to be available within the next two years, except by re-lettings.

Until a co-ordinated policy can be worked out between the Housing and Public Health Committees there is little chance of coming to grips realistically with the problem of sub-standard houses in the area. While persons continue to occupy sub-standard houses some twelve years after they have been condemned by the Local Authority, very little headway can be made in tackling further sub-standard houses.

In some cases, this has been off-set by private action, aided by Improvement Grants, whereby a few houses, which may have deteriorated to or reached the sub-standard stage, have been brought back into use on modern standards. This has been amply illustrated in the St. James's Street area where the report of 1950 showed fifty two per cent sub-standard, and where by means of Clearance Areas, Improvement Grants and private improvement by owner occupiers, the percentage is nearer ten per cent. This is still too high.

The upsurge in private development of new houses continues, twenty being occupied in 1962 against the post-war average of 6. There is evidence that this is likely to continue for the next two or three years by reason of the houses under construction and the number of fresh areas of land cleared for building purposes. These houses, however, are not likely, under present conditions, to make material impact on the Council house waiting list.

House Inspections

Total number of houses in the district 1,165

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 353
No. of inspections made 557

No. of informal notices served 76
No. of informal notices complied with 63
No. of statutory notices served ..... Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with ..... Nil
No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 2
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made 5
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure 1
Reconditioning ..... Nil
Other Action ..... Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year 7

Overcrowding

No. of cases of statutory overcrowding found during the year 2
No. of cases of overcrowding abated 2

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings.

Rehousing

Twenty families were rehoused by the Council during the year, compared with eight during the preceding year.

New Housing

Twenty one dwellings were provided during the year by private enterprise and nine by the Council.

Housing Applications

At the end of the year there were one hundred and twenty two applicants accepted on the Council's Housing waiting list.

Improvement Grants

Three applications for 'standard' and seven for 'discretionary' grants were received during the year, compared with eight and twelve respectively in the preceding year.

This is rather disappointing as the 'improvement' of sub-standard dwellings is so great a contribution to the adequate housing of people.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'Dealers' subject to registration by the District Council	5
No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration	Nil
No. of 'distributors' subject to registration	7

Samples

Eleven samples of milk in the Borough were taken and submitted for examination during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959 - Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	30
Canteens - School and workplace	7
Confectioners	6
Meat and Fish	7
Grocers	8
Mixed Stores	3
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	2
Food factories	3
Stalls	-
Other	11

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	16
Sausages & prepared meats	3
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test Nil

No. of premises inspected during the year 67
No. of inspections carried out 191

Food Inspection

Butchers' Shops and Other Premises

No home killed or imported meat was condemned at butchers' shops for bovi taint or other causes.

The quantity of tinned and other goods still remains very small and is as follows -

Tinned meat	61½ lbs
Tinned Vegetable	29 "
Tinned Milk	2½ "
Flour	28 "
Bacon	12 "
	133 "

Slaughterhouses

There was one registered slaughterhouse in the Borough.

The number of animals slaughtered during the year showed a thirty per cent fall on the figures of the previous year.

No case of tuberculosis was found for the third year running and no cysticercus bovis was found

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	142	45	770	13	3
Number Inspected	142	45	770	13	3
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	4	4	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	15	1	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.3	42.2	0.7	23.1	33.3
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Basement Bakehouses

There is one basement bakehouse in the town which is licensed for use under the Factories Act, 1937 in so far as the premises are considered suitable for the purpose for which they are used.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	3,565
Total No. of informal notices served	422
Total No. of informal notices complied with	411
Total No. of statutory notices served	3
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	2
No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. RADIATION HAZARDS

Any information available with regard to the results of monitoring background radiation from nuclear fall out, by Central Departments, suggests that no material deterioration in the position has taken place during the year.

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis -

Disease	Total Cases Notified
	Nil.

Tuberculosis	New Cases Notified	
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
	1	-

Food Poisoning -

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.